Japanese Kokai Patent Publication No. H7-235292, published September 5, 1995; Application No. H6-22284, filed February 21, 1994; Inventors: Kazuhiro OKAMURA, Kaoru INOUE, and Junichi YAMAURA; Assignee: Matsushita Denki Sangyo KK (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.)

#### NONAQUEOUS ELECTROLYTE SECONDARY BATTERY

[Claim]

[Claim 1]

A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery whereby it is a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprised of at least a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a nonaqueous electrolyte containing an ester; with the active substance of the aforementioned positive electrode, the surface of a lithium nickelate  $\text{Li}_x \text{NiO}_2$  (0 < x \leq 1) is covered with at least one of lithium cobaltate  $\text{Li}_x \text{CoO}_2$  (0 < x \leq 1) and lithium manganate  $\text{Li}_x \text{MnO}_2$  (0 < x \leq 1).

[Detailed Explanation of the Invention]
[0001]

[Field of Use in Industry]

The present invention concerns a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery; in particular, it concerns an improvement in the positive electrode active substance.

[0002]

In recent years, electrical equipment has been rapidly becoming portable and cordless; the batteries for driving are small and lightweight and have high-energy density, and demand

has been high for long-life secondary batteries with superior charge and discharge properties. Because of these points, expectations have been great for nonaqueous electrolyte secondary batteries, particularly lithium nonaqueous electrolyte secondary batteries, as batteries having high voltage and high energy density.

[0003]

With the objective of developing positive electrode active substances for lithium secondary batteries, in order to fulfill the aforementioned demands, the research and development of materials has been flourishing in recent years. For example, with nickel compound associations, Li,Ni2,O2 (disclosed in Japanese Kokai Patent Publication No. H2-40861 [published in 1990]) and Li1,NiO2 (described in United States Patent No. 4,302,518) have been proposed; with other transmission metallic compound associations, many more development examples have been reported, and some have been put into practical use. [0004]

Among these compounds, with  $\text{Li}_{x}\text{NiO}_{2}$  (0  $\prec$  x  $\preceq$  1) (hereinafter noted as  $\text{LiNiO}_{2}$ ), the charging and discharging capacitance per unit weight is large, and there is the possibility for a large-capacitance nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery positive electrode substance.

[0005]

Additionally, regarding electrolytes, those containing esters can be applied to all types of lithium batteries.

 $(-1,4,31) = 2 \cdot 3$ 

20 11 No. 10 12

[0006]

However, LiNiO<sub>2</sub> is used as the positive electrode substance, and with batteries using a nonaqueous electrolyte containing esters, it has been learned that capacitance reductions accompanying repeated charges and discharges, and deterioration during storage of the battery, are greater compared to those of batteries with other compounds as the positive electrode active substance, for example lithium cobaltate  $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$  (0  $\prec$  x  $\preceq$  1) (hereinafter noted as  $\text{LiCoO}_2$ ) and lithium manganate  $\text{Li}_x\text{MnO}_2$  (0  $\prec$  x  $\preceq$  1) (hereinafter noted as  $\text{LiMnO}_2$ ).

Regarding the reaction between the esters and the positive electrode active substance, this has been reported in some of the systems; for example, according to Thomas et al. (Journal of the Electrochemical Society, 132 [1985], 1521), with a system of propylene carbonate and LiCoO<sub>2</sub>, a polymer film with propylene carbonate as the origin is formed on the surface of the LiCoO<sub>2</sub>, and the movement of lithium ions in conjunction with the charging and discharging reaction is obstructed. In particular, when the cobalt has a valence of 4 and is released in a charged state with increased oxidizing power, the reaction of the positive electrode active substance and the electrolyte becomes notable. As a result of studying LiNiO<sub>2</sub>, LiCoO<sub>2</sub>, and LiMnO<sub>2</sub> using the same analysis methods as the aforementioned report by Thomas et al., LiNiO<sub>2</sub> had greater reactivity than LiCoO<sub>2</sub> and LiMnO<sub>2</sub> with various esters. Thus, this is considered the cause of the fact that the

capacitance deterioration accompanying repeated charging and discharging, and the deterioration during storage of the battery, is great.

[8000]

[Means for Resolving Problems]

With the present invention, the aforementioned problems were taken into consideration, and the objective thereof is not to lose the property of high capacitance of LiNiO<sub>2</sub> while suppressing the reaction with the nonaqueous electrolyte, and to eliminate capacitance reductions accompanying repeated charges and discharges, and deterioration during storage of the battery. [0009]

The present inventors, as a result of repeated diligent research, have discovered the knowledge that if the surface of the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> is covered with at least one of LiCoO<sub>2</sub> and LiMnO<sub>2</sub>, the aforementioned objective can be achieved.
[0010]

The present invention, which concerns a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, is formed based on the aforementioned knowledge; it is characterized in that it is a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprised of at least a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a nonaqueous electrolyte containing an ester; with the active substance of the aforementioned positive electrode, the surface of a lithium nickelate  $\text{Li}_1\text{NiO}_2$  (0  $\prec$  x  $\preceq$  1) is covered with at least one of lithium cobaltate  $\text{Li}_1\text{CoO}_2$  (0  $\prec$  x  $\preceq$  1) and lithium manganate  $\text{Li}_1\text{MnO}_2$ 

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 $(0 \prec x \preceq 1)$ .

[0011]

For a representative example of the aforementioned esters included in the nonaqueous electrolyte, diethyl carbonate, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, methyl propionate,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone, and the like have been cited. However, because there is a problem in that the reaction with the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> is in common with the esters, it is not necessarily limited to these esters.

[0012]

[Operation]

With the suppression operation of the reaction of the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> with the nonaqueous electrolyte, the surface of the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> is covered with LiCoO<sub>2</sub> or LiMnO<sub>2</sub>, which have relatively little reactivity toward esters; it is considered that the reactions of oxidation, dissolution, polymerization, and the like, which are surface reactions occurring between the esters and active substance, are suppressed. In addition, the movement of lithium ions in conjunction with the charging and discharging reactions smoothly disseminates the LiCoO<sub>2</sub> or LiMnO<sub>3</sub> of the surface layer and reaches the inner LiNiO<sub>2</sub>; in terms of the charging and discharging capacitance, the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> acts in a guiding manner, and it is considered that high capacitance, which is a characteristic thereof, can be obtained. The reaction with esters is also smaller than that of the LiCoO<sub>2</sub> or LiMnO<sub>2</sub>, but when the surface of the LiNiO<sub>2</sub> was covered with a metal (platinum, gold, and the

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like) whereby lithium ions are not diffused, or with carbon, the charging and discharging capacitance was markedly decreased.

Because of this, the covering substance is not limited to LiNiO<sub>2</sub>, and as long as it is a substance with relatively smaller reactivity than LiNiO<sub>2</sub>, it is expected that the same results with LiCoO<sub>2</sub> or LiMnO<sub>2</sub> would be obtained, but further study is required to search for such a substance.

#### [0013]

#### [Embodiments]

Below, together with the drawings, the present invention is explained along with embodiments.

#### [0014]

First, a manufacturing method in common with the embodiments concerning the positive electrode active substance is shown. A LiNiO<sub>2</sub> powder, obtained by a known method whereby a nickel hydroxide powder and lithium hydroxide powder are mixed and heated within an oxygen atmosphere of 700°C, is dispersed while being stirred in a water solution of a transmission metal of a covering compound, for example, a water solution of cobalt, nitrate and/or manganese nitrate; by adding alcohol salts, for example, a water solution of lithium hydroxide, to the suspension, it is possible to precipitate the compound containing the transmission metal of the covering compound on the surface of the aforementioned LiNiO<sub>2</sub> powder, which is the core. The stirring is stopped, the precipitate obtained is washed and dried, and an intermediate-stage powder is obtained.

[0015]

There are other methods for obtaining an item similar to this intermediate-stage powder. For example, there is a method whereby cobalt salts and/or manganese salts are set as a target on LiNiO<sub>2</sub> as a base material, and sputtering is carried out; also, there is a method whereby cobalt salts and/or manganese salt powder are mechanochemically covered; however, from the standpoints of difficulty of manufacturing and instability of covering, the method based on precipitation form a solution described above is preferable.

[0016]

In correspondence with the amount of compound precipitated in the powder of the intermediate stage, a lithium hydroxide powder suitable for the obtaining of LiCoO<sub>2</sub> and/or LiMnO<sub>2</sub> is heated together in air. At this time, 2 - 3 hours is satisfactory; if this is carried out for a long time, the cobalt and/or manganese of the surface layer and the inner nickel mutually disperse, and a solid solution becomes formed. [0017]

The covering state of the active substance obtained was observed by means of x-ray microanalysis (XMA). The active substance was mixed with an epoxy resin and hardened, and when a random surface thereof is ground, a cross section of the active substance can be exposed. In Figure 1, a pattern diagram of a representative result obtained by an XMA surface analysis is shown. This shows a state whereby LiCoO<sub>2</sub> and/or LiMnO<sub>2</sub> are formed

on the surface of the LiNiO<sub>2</sub>, which is the core. Within the diagram, A represents the part where nickel exists, and B represents the part where cobalt and/or manganese exist.
[0018]

An outline of the manufacturing method and structure of a cylindrical battery for experimental use in embodiments is illustrated below.

[0019]

The positive electrode mixture paste was mixed with the positive electrode active substance, acetylene black, and polyvinylidene fluoride at a weight ratio of 100:4:5; a solvent was added until it had a suitable viscosity to apply N-methyl-2pyrrolidone. A positive electrode plate was manufactured by applying this positive electrode mixture paste to both sides of an aluminum foil and rolling. The negative electrode plate was manufactured by baking coke and mixing the carbon material and fluorine resin-type binding material each to a weight ratio of 100:10, kneading this together with a carboxymethyl cellulose water solution and making it into a paste, applying it to both sides of a silver foil, and drying and rolling. A variety of electrolyte combinations were studied and because the results in each case were almost identical, in order to avoid complexity in specific embodiments, for convenience, the case of an electrolyte manufactured by dissolving lithium perchlorate as a supporting electrolyte at a ratio of 1 mol/1 (sic) in an isometric mixed solvent of propylene carbonate and ethylene carbonate is

discussed.

[0020]

Leads were attached to both belt-shaped positive and negative electrodes; a separator made of polypropylene was interposed, and the entirety was wound in a whirlpool shape.

After this was stored in a stainless steel battery case, a predetermined amount of electrolyte was injected, the other constituent parts were mounted, and the battery was constructed.

[0021]

battery formed in this manner. Within the diagram, (1) illustrates the battery case which stores the electrode plate group (2); a positive electrode lead (4) is connected to a sealing plate (3) which hermetically seals the battery case (1), and a negative electrode lead (5) connected to the bottom of the battery case (1). (6) represents a packing, and in addition to maintaining airtightness, it has the function of insulating the sealing plate (3) which is a positive electrode terminal, and the battery case (1), which is a negative electrode terminal. With the insulating ring (7), the positive and negative electrode plates of the electrode plate group (2) contact the battery case (1) and sealing plate (3) inside the battery, and short-circuiting is prevented.

[0022]

(Embodiment 1)

With the aforementioned manufacturing method for a positive

electrode active substance, cobalt nitrate was used in water-soluble salts containing selective metals of covering compounds; a positive electrode active substance covered with LiCoO<sub>2</sub> on a LiNiO<sub>2</sub> surface was synthesized. The manufacturing method and structure of the cylindrical battery for experimental use are identical to those of the aforementioned method. This battery is battery A of the present invention.

[0023]

#### (Embodiment 2)

With the aforementioned manufacturing method for a positive electrode active substance, manganese nitrate was used in watersoluble salts containing selective metals of covering compounds; a positive electrode active substance covered with LiMnO<sub>2</sub> on a LiNiO<sub>2</sub> surface was synthesized. The manufacturing method and structure of the cylindrical battery for experimental use are identical to those of the aforementioned method. This battery is battery B of the present invention.

[0024]

#### (Embodiment 3)

With the aforementioned manufacturing method for a positive electrode active substance, cobalt nitrate and manganese nitrate were used in water-soluble salts containing selective metals of covering compounds; a positive electrode active substance covered with LiCoO<sub>2</sub> and LiMnO<sub>2</sub> on a LiNiO<sub>2</sub> surface was synthesized. The manufacturing method and structure of the cylindrical battery for experimental use are identical to those of the aforementioned

method. This battery is battery C of the present invention.
[0025]

(Comparative Example 1)

Besides the fact that  $LiNiO_2$  with nothing covering the surface was used as the positive electrode active substance, this is identical to the aforementioned embodiments. This battery is comparative battery D.

[0026]

[0027]

(Experiment 1)

Using the batteries A - D, charging and discharging were repeated 200 times, and the extent of the reduction of the discharging capacitance was compared. The experimental conditions at this time involved charging and discharging each battery, placed in an atmosphere of 20°C, at a fixed current of 140 mA in a voltage range of 3.0 - 4.1 V.

The results are shown in Figure 3. Based on Figure 3, with the batteries A, B, and C of the present invention, it was learned that at the initial stage of the repeated charging and discharging, the discharging capacitance was slightly smaller than that of the comparative battery D and the extent or reduction was slight, and after repeating 30 - 70 times, the discharging capacitance became larger than that of the comparative battery D.

[0028]

(Experiment 2)

After the batteries A - D placed in an atmosphere of 20°C were charged to 4.1 V with a fixed current of 140 mA, they were left for three weeks in an atmosphere of 60°C. The batteries, after being left alone, were returned to an atmosphere of 20°C, and again, after being charged to 4.1 V with a fixed current of 140 mA, the discharging capacitance was measured. Based on this, the deterioration caused by being left alone was evaluated.

The results are shown in Table 1. [0030]

#### [Table 1]

·	Discharging capacitance (mAh)
Battery A of the present invention	497
Battery B of the present invention	511
Battery C of the present invention	502
Comparative battery D	419

#### [0031]

[0032]

Based on Table 1, it is learned that the discharging capacitance of the batteries of the present invention A, B, and C is larger than that of the comparative battery D, and deterioration caused by leaving them alone is small.

### [Results of the Invention]

As is made clear by the above explanation, with at least a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a nonaqueous electrolyte containing an ester, with the active substance of the

aforementioned positive electrode, the surface of a lithium nickelate  $\text{Li}_x \text{NiO}_2$  (0 < x < 1) is covered with at least one of lithium cobaltate  $\text{Li}_x \text{CoO}_2$  (0 < x < 1) and lithium manganate  $\text{Li}_x \text{MnO}_2$  (0 < x < 1), based on which a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery whereby high capacitance, a feature of  $\text{LiNiO}_2$ , is not lost, reaction with the nonaqueous electrolyte is suppressed, and there is no capacitance reduction accompanying repeated charging and discharging, and no deterioration when storing the battery. [Simple Explanation of the Drawings]

#### [Figure 1]

A pattern diagram showing the covering state of the active substance in an embodiment of the present invention.

#### [Figure 2]

An outline diagram of a vertical cross section of a cylindrical battery in an embodiment of the present invention.

[Figure 3]

A feature diagram showing the differences in capacitance reduction based on repeated charging and discharging.

#### [Explanation of Symbols]

- 1. battery case
- 2. electrode plate group
- 3. sealing plate
- 4. positive electrode lead
- 5. negative electrode lead
- 6. packing

## 7. insulation ring

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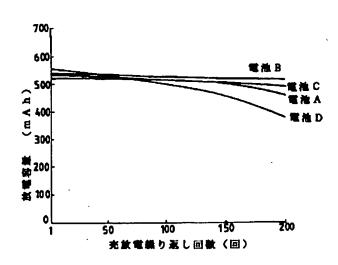
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(22)出顧日	平成6年(1994)2	月21日	(72)発明者	大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器
			(72)発明者	産業株式会社内 井上 薫 大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器 産業株式会社内
			(72)発明者	山浦(純一

#### (54) 【発明の名称】 非水電解液二次電池

#### (57)【要約】

【目的】 高容量で、充放電の繰り返しに伴う容量低下、および電池の保存中における劣化の少ない、特性の優れた非水電解液二次電池を提供する。

【構成】 少なくとも正極と、負極と、エステル類を含有する非水電解液とからなる非水電解液二次電池において、前記正極の活物質としてニッケル酸リチウムしix NiO2 (0<x≤1)の表面を、コバルト酸リチウムしix CoO2(0<x≤1)および、マンガン酸リチウムしix MnO2 (0<x≤1)のうちの少なくとも1種で被覆したものを用いるようにした。



大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器

(外2名)

最終頁に続く

産業株式会社内

(74)代理人 弁理士 小鍜治 明

#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 少なくとも正極と、負極と、エステル類を含有する非水電解液とからなる非水電解液二次電池であって、前記正極の活物質はニッケル酸リチウムLix NiO2 (0<x  $\leq$  1) の表面を、コバルト酸リチウムLix CoO2 (0<x  $\leq$  1) および、マンガン酸リチウムLix MnO2 (0<x  $\leq$  1) のうちの少なくとも1種で被覆したものである非水電解液二次電池。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

#### [0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、非水電解液二次電池に 関し、特にその正極活物質の改良に関するものである。 【0002】

【従来の技術】近年、電子機器のボータブル化、コードレス化が急速に進んでおり、これらの駆動用電源として小型・軽量で、高エネルギー密度を有し、充放電サイクル特性の優れた長寿命の二次電池への要望が高い。このような点で、非水電解液二次電池、特にリチウム二次電池はとりわけ高電圧・高エネルギー密度を有する電池として期待が大きい。

【0003】上述の要望を満たすリチウム二次電池用の正極活物質の開発を目的として、近年盛んに材料の研究・開発がなされている。例えば、ニッケル化合物関連ではLi, Ni2-y O2 (特開平2-40861号公報)やLi1-x NiO2 (米国特許第4302518号明細書)などの提案があり、他の遷移金属化合物の関連では更に多くの開発事例が報告されており、一部実用化されているものもある。

【0004】それらの化合物の中で、ニッケル酸リチウムLix NiO2(0<x≤1)(以後、LiNiO2と記す)は、単位重量当たりの充放電容量が大きく、高容量の非水電解液二次電池の正極活物質としての可能性がある。

【0005】また、電解液については、エステル類を含 有するものがリチウム電池全般にわたって適用されてい る。

#### [0006]

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成因とする重合体膜が生成され、充放電反応に伴うリチウムイオンの移動が阻害される。特にCoが4価となり酸化力の増す充電状態で放置した場合は、正極活物質と電解液との反応が顕著となる。本発明者らが、前述のThomasらの報告と同様の解析手法を用いてLiNiO2、LiCoO2、およびLiMnO2について検討した結果、LiNiO2はLiCoO2やLiMnO2よりも種々のエステル類との反応性が更に大きかった。よって、これが充放電の繰り返しに伴う容量低下、および電池の保存中における劣化が大きいことの原因と考えられる。

#### [8000]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は前記の問題点を鑑みて行ったものであり、その目的は、高容量というLiNiO2 の特長を損なうことなく、非水電解液との反応を抑制し、充放電の繰り返しに伴う容量低下、および電池の保存中における劣化を少なくさせようとするものである。

【 0 0 0 9 】本発明者らは、鋭意検討を重ねた結果、L 0 i N i O<sub>2</sub> の表面をL i C o O<sub>2</sub> 、L i M n O<sub>2</sub> の少なくとも1種類で被覆すると、前記目的を達成し得るとの知見を見出した。

【0010】非水電解液二次電池に関する本発明は、前記知見に基づいて成し得たものであって、少なくとも正極と、負極と、エステル類を含有する非水電解液とからなる非水電解液二次電池であって、前記正極の活物質であるニッケル酸リチウムLix NiO2 (0<x≤1)の表面を、コバルト酸リチウムLix CoO2 (0<x≤1)および、マンガン酸リチウムLix MnO2 (0 <x≤1)および、マンガン酸リチウムLix MnO2 (0 <x≤1)のうちの少なくとも1種で被覆したことを特徴としている。

【0011】ここで、非水電解液に含まれる前記エステル類の代表例としては、炭酸ジエチル、炭酸エチレン、炭酸プロピレン、プロピオン酸メチル、アーブチロラクトン等を挙げることができる。しかし、前記の電池内におけるLiNiO2との反応はエステル類に共通する問題であるため、必ずしもこれらのエステルに限定されるものではない。

#### [0012]

(作用)本発明におけるLiNiO2の非水電解液との反応の抑制作用は、LiNiO2の表面が、エステル類に対して相対的に反応性の小さいLiCoO2やLiMnO2によって被覆されることにより、エステル類と活物質との間で起こる表面反応であるところの酸化、分解、重合等の反応が抑制されるものと考えられる。更に、充放電反応に伴うリチウムイオンの移動は、表面層のLiCoO2やLiMnO2を円滑に拡散して内部のLiNiO2まで達し、充放電容量的にはLiNiO2が支配的で、その特長である高容量が得られるものと考り、サムカス、エフテル類との反応がLiCoO。やLiM

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nO2 よりも更に少ないが、リチウムイオンが拡散しない金属(白金、金など)、およびカーボンでLiNiO2の表面を被覆した場合は、充放電容量が著しく低下した。このことから、被覆する物質は、LiCoO2やLiMnO2に限らず、リチウムイオンを拡散し、エステル類に対しLiNiO2よりも相対的に反応性の小さいものであれば、LiCoO2やLiMnO2と同様の効果が得られるものと予想されるが、そのような物質を探索するための更なる検討を必要とする。

#### [0013]

【実施例】以下、図面と共に本発明を具体的な実施例に 沿って説明する。

【0014】まず、正極活物質について実施例に共通する製造方法について示す。水酸化ニッケル粉末と水酸化リチウム粉末とを混合し、700℃の酸素雰囲気中で加熱するという公知の方法で得られたLiNiO2粉末を、これを被覆する化合物の遷移金属を含む水溶性の塩、例えば硝酸コバルトおよび/あるいは硝酸マンガンの水溶液中に攪拌しながら分散させ、この懸濁液にアルカリ塩、例えば水酸化リチウムの水溶液を添加すること 20により、核となる前記LiNiO2粉末の表面に、被覆する化合物の遷移金属を含む化合物を析出させることができる。攪拌を停止して得られた沈殿物を、水洗、乾燥して中間段階の粉末を得る。

【0015】この中間段階の粉末に類似したものを得るには、他の方法もある。例えば、LiNiO2を基体材料に、コバルト塩および/あるいはマンガン塩をターゲットにしてスパッタリングを行う方法、また、LiNiO2粉末にコバルト塩および/あるいはマンガン塩粉末をメカノケミカルに被覆する方法等があるが、製造の困30難さ、被覆の不完全さの観点から、前述の溶液中からの析出による方法が好ましい。

【0016】中間段階の粉末に析出させた化合物の量に応じて、LiCoO2 および/あるいはLiMnO2を得るに相当する水酸化リチウム粉末と共に空気中で加熱する。このときの時間は2~3時間でよく、長時間行うと表面層のCoおよび/あるいはMnと内部のNiとが相互拡散し、固溶体が形成されてしまう。

【0017】得られた活物質の被覆の状態をX線マイクロ分析(XMA)によって観察した。活物質をエポキシ 40 樹脂に混ぜて硬化させ、その任意の面を研磨すると活物質の断面を露出させることができる。図1にXMAの面分析で得られた代表的な結果の模式図を示した。核となるLiNiO2の表面にLiCoO2および/あるいはLiMnO2が生成している様子を示している。図中AはNiの存在する部分、BはCoおよび/あるいはMnの存在する部分を示す。

【0018】次に、実施例における試験用円筒形電池の作成方法と構成の概要を以下に示す。

【0019】正稿合剤ペーストは前述の方法で得られた 50

正極活物質、アセチレンブラックおよびポリフッ化ビニ リデンを100:4:5の重量比で混合したものに、N ーメチルー2ーピロリドンを塗布するに適切な粘度を有 するまで溶剤として添加した。この正極合剤ペースト

を、アルミニウム箔の両面に塗布して乾燥、圧延処理をして正極板を調製した。一方、負極板はコークスを焼成して得られた炭素材、フッ素樹脂系結着材をそれぞれ100:10の重量比で混合し、これをカルボキシメチルセルロース水溶液で練合してペーストとし、銅箔の両面に塗布して乾燥、圧延処理をして調製した。電解液は、種々の組み合わせで検討したが、いずれの場合も結果は

種々の組み合わせで検討したが、いずれの場合も結果は 同様であったため、具体的な実施例の中では煩雑を避け るために、便宜上、炭酸プロピレン、炭酸エチレンの等 体積混合溶媒に、支持電解質として過塩素酸リチウムを 1モル/1の割合で溶解して調製した電解液の場合を述 べる。

【0020】帯状の正・負極の両極にリードを付け、ポリプロピレン製セパレータをはさんで全体を渦巻状に巻いた。これをステンレス鋼製電池ケースに収納した後に所定量の電解液を注入し、その他の構成部品を装着して電池を構成した。

【0021】こうして作成した円筒形電池の縦断面図を図2に示した。図中1は極板群2を収容した電池ケースを示し、この電池ケース1を密封する封口板3には正極リード4が接続され、電池ケース1の底部には負極リード5が接続されている。6はパッキングを示し、気密性を保つと共に、正極端子である封口板3と負極端子をなす電池ケース1とを絶縁する機能をもつ。7の絶縁リングは、極板群2の正・負極板が電池内部で電池ケース1と封口板3に接触して短絡することを防いでいる。

【0022】(実施例1)前記の正極活物質の製造方法において、被覆する化合物の遷移金属を含む水溶性の塩に硝酸コバルトを用いて、LiNiO2表面にLiCoO2を被覆した正極活物質を合成した。試験用円筒形電池の作成方法と構成は前記の方法と同じである。この電池を本発明電池Aとする。

【0023】(実施例2)前記の正極活物質の製造方法において、被覆する化合物の遷移金属を含む水溶性の塩に硝酸マンガンを用いて、LiNiO2表面にLiMnO2を被覆した正極活物質を合成した。試験用円筒形電池の作成方法と構成は前記の方法と同じである。この電池を本発明電池Bとする。

【0024】(実施例3)前記の正極活物質の製造方法において、被覆する化合物の遷移金属を含む水溶性の塩に等量の硝酸コバルトと硝酸マンガンを用いて、LiNiOz表面にLiCoOzおよびLiMnOzを被覆した正極活物質を合成した。試験用円筒形電池の作成方法と構成は前記の方法と同じである。この電池を本発明電池Cとする。

【0025】(比較例1)正極活物質として表面になに

も被覆していないLiNiO2を用いた他は、前記実施例と同じである。この電池を比較電池Dとする。

【0026】(実験1)これら電池A~Dを用いて、200回までの充放電を繰り返し、その放電容量の低下の度合いを比較した。このときの試験条件は、20℃の雰囲気に置かれた各電池を140mAの定電流で、3.0V~4.1Vの電圧範囲で充放電させるものである。

【0027】この結果を図3に示す。図3より、本発明電池A,B,Cは充放電の繰り返し初期には、比較電池Dよりも放電容量がわずかに小さいものの、低下の度合 10いが少なく、約30回~70回の繰り返し以後は、比較電池Dよりも放電容量が大きくなることがわかる。

【0028】(実験2)20℃の雰囲気に置かれた電池A~Dを、140mAの定電流で4.1 Vまで充電した後、60℃の雰囲気で3週間放置した。放置後の電池を20℃の雰囲気に戻し、再び140mAの定電流で4.1 Vまで充電した後の放電容量を測定した。これにより放置による劣化の度合いを評価した。

【0029】この結果を表1に示す。

[0030]

【表1】

	放電容量(mAh)
本発明電池A	497
本発明電池B	5 1 1
本発明電池C	502
比較電池D	4 1 9

【0031】表1より、本発明電池A,B,Cは比較電池Dよりも放電容量が大きく、放置による劣化が少ない30

ことがわかる。

[0032]

【発明の効果】以上の説明から明らかなように、本発明によれば、少なくとも正極と、負極と、エステル類を含有する非水電解液とからなる非水電解液二次電池において、正極活物質であるニッケル酸リチウムLiェ NiO2 (0<x≤1)の表面を、コバルト酸リチウムLiェ CoO2 (0<x≤1)および、マンガン酸リチウムLiェ MnO2 (0<x≤1)のうちの少なくとも1種で被覆することにより、高容量というLiNiO2 の特長を損なうことなく、非水電解液との反応を抑制し、充放電の繰り返しに伴う容量低下、および電池の保存中における劣化の少ない非水電解液二次電池を提供することができる。

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#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施例における活物質の被覆状態を示す模式図

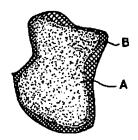
【図2】本発明の実施例における円筒形電池の縦断面の 概略図

20 【図3】電池の充放電の繰り返しによる放電容量の低下 の違いを示す特性図

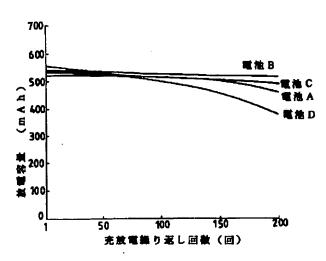
【符号の説明】

- 1 電池ケース
- 2 極板群
- 3 封口板
- 4 正極リード
- 5 負極リード
- 6 パッキング
- 7 絶縁リング

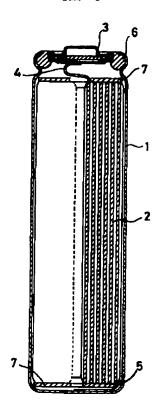
【図1】



【図3】



【図2】



フロントページの続き

(72)発明者 小林 茂雄 大阪府門真市大字門真1006番地 松下電器 産業株式会社内

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